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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 004316

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [CH](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS DIM FOR POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRC TAIWAN

AFFAIRS OFFICE DIRECTOR CHEN YUNLIN

Classified By: AIT Acting Director David Keegan, Reasons: 1.4 (B/D)

11. (C) Summary: Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chang Chun-hsiung, told the Director on October 20 that the SEF welcomes a visit by PRC Taiwan Affairs Office Director Chen Yunlin and hopes that Chen will meet not just with the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) but also with government authorities. The next day, however, National Security Council Counselor Chen Chung-hsin told the Acting Director that Taiwan will require Chen Yunlin to agree to hold talks with Taiwan Government officials as a condition for approving his visit to Taiwan. Taiwan authorities expect Chen Yunlin to refuse unless Taiwan accepts the "92 Consensus." That will be a deal breaker. If the proposed visit by Chen Yunlin does not take place, the KMT will blame the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for blocking dialogue, while the DPP will blame the KMT for being pro-China. Once again, cross-Strait policy has become an electoral gambit. End Summary.

12. (C) Chang Chun-hsiung, Chairman of the SEF, noted to the Director on October 20 that the opposition KMT has proposed a visit to Taiwan by PRC Taiwan Affairs Office Director Chen Yunlin. SEF's position, Chang said, is 1) that it welcomes a visit by Chen Yunlin, and 2) hopes Chen Yunlin will have contact not just with the KMT but also meet formally with the ruling party authorities. From the viewpoint of SEF, this would be a breakthrough. President Bush has called for the PRC to hold dialogue with the Taiwan ruling party in addition to the opposition and therefore, Chang argued, the SEF position on a possible Chen Yunlin visit tracks with U.S. policy.

13. (C) The next day, October 21, however, National Security Council Counselor Chen Chung-hsin told the ADIR that the Taiwan authorities will require Chen Yunlin to hold official talks with the Taiwan government as a condition for allowing him to visit Taiwan. Chen Chung-hsin acknowledged that Chen Yunlin is very unlikely to agree to talks with Taiwan government officials because Taiwan rejects Beijing's precondition for such talks -- acceptance of the "1992 consensus" on one China.

14. (U) According to Taiwan press reports, the KMT is inviting PRC Taiwan Affairs Office Director Chen Yunlin to attend a KMT-Chinese Communist Party (CCP) forum on economic issues in Taiwan in mid-December and the KMT-run National Policy Foundation plans soon to apply to the Mainland Affairs Council for approval of the visit by the PRC delegation to be headed by Chen Yunlin. Taiwan press also reports that an unnamed Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) official said there is no indication Chen Yunlin would be willing to meet with Taiwan officials and he might even avoid contact with officials, which would make it difficult for the Taiwan Government to approve a visit by Chen Yunlin. Taiwan officials also ask rhetorically whether the PRC would be willing to invite a high-ranking Taiwan official to visit the Mainland, suggesting a possible Chen Yunlin visit also involves questions of reciprocity.

Comment

15. (C) Neither Chang nor Chen is a DPP policy insider. In this case, we are inclined to credit Chen with the more realistic angle. The DPP has nothing to gain from permitting a visit by Chen Yunlin and no reason to grant a victory to the KMT as elections approach. Once again cross-Strait policy has been ensnared by politics.
KEEGAN